PAUL DANO STEVAN SUBIC

THE RIDDLER

YEAR ONE

BOOK FOUR

DC BLACK LABEL

17+ MATURE

THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS

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DC

DAWN OF DC

A NEW ONGOING SERIES MAY

SHAZAM!

THE *BATMAN/SUPERMAN: WORLD'S FINEST* CREATORS TAKE ON THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL!

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FORGING THE FUTURE ONE HERO AT A TIME

Written by
MARK WAID

Art by
DAN MORA

The Gotham Orphanage

E.N.

ANY OTHER CONTENTS?

NOTHING.

GOTHAM ORPHANAGE

INTAKE FORM

Cause : ?

GIVE HIM A NAME, THEN.

LET HIM CRY IT OUT.

"ONCE HE'S ASLEEP, PUT HIM IN WITH THE OTHERS."

The RIDDLER: Year One Chapter 4. There's no place like home

ARE YOU SURE?

SHE LEFT A NOTE. THE DATE AND GENDER MATCH.

ORPHANS HOPE TO MEET THEIR PARENTS SOMEDAY. THEY CAN'T HELP IT. BEST TO RIP THE BAND-AID OFF. TELL HIM.

EDWARD?

THERE'S A MAN HERE TO SPEAK TO YOU.

EDWARD, WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR BIOLOGICAL MOTHER PASSED AWAY LAST NIGHT. SHE WAS IN CARE AT ARKHAM ASYLUM WHEN SHE DIED.

13 1 13 1 ?

HE DOESN'T SPEAK. WE NEVER KNOW WHAT HE'S TRYING TO TELL US.

13 1 13 1 P

M A

M A M A ?

HEY EVERYONE, COME LOOK!

YOU THINK HE'S IN THERE?

OF COURSE HE IS. WITH HIS MOMMY AND DADDY AND MAIDS TAKING CARE OF HIM. THE LUCKIEST KID IN THE WORLD.

TAKE US WITH YOU, BRUCE.

CHILDREN, COME ALONG NOW.

AVE MARIA! VIRGIN OF HEAVEN! SOVEREIGN QUEEN OF GRACE! AND PIOUS MOTHER

MAY YOU ALWAYS WELCOME THE FERVENT PRAYER

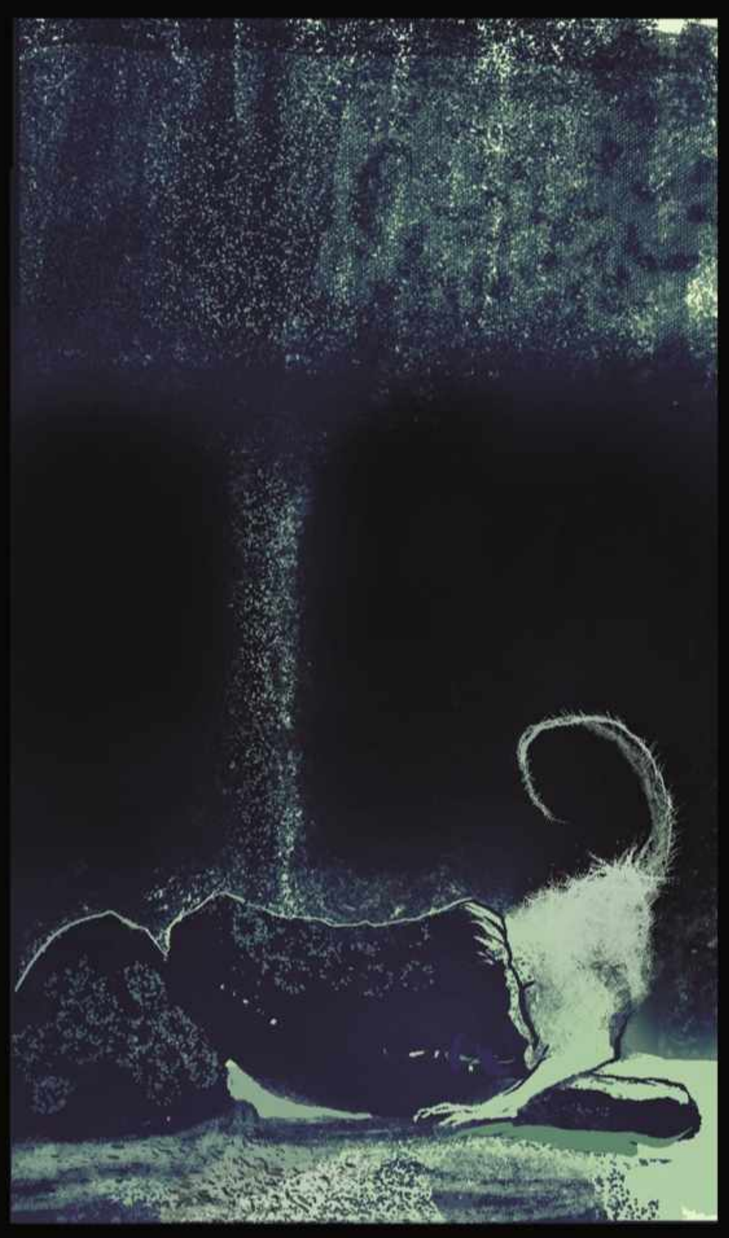
LIGHTS OUT.

MARIE.

GET A DOCTOR!

IT'S TOO LATE.

LIGHTS OUT, CHILDREN.



AAAHH!

=GASP!=

=WHIMPER=

SHUT UP, EDWARD!

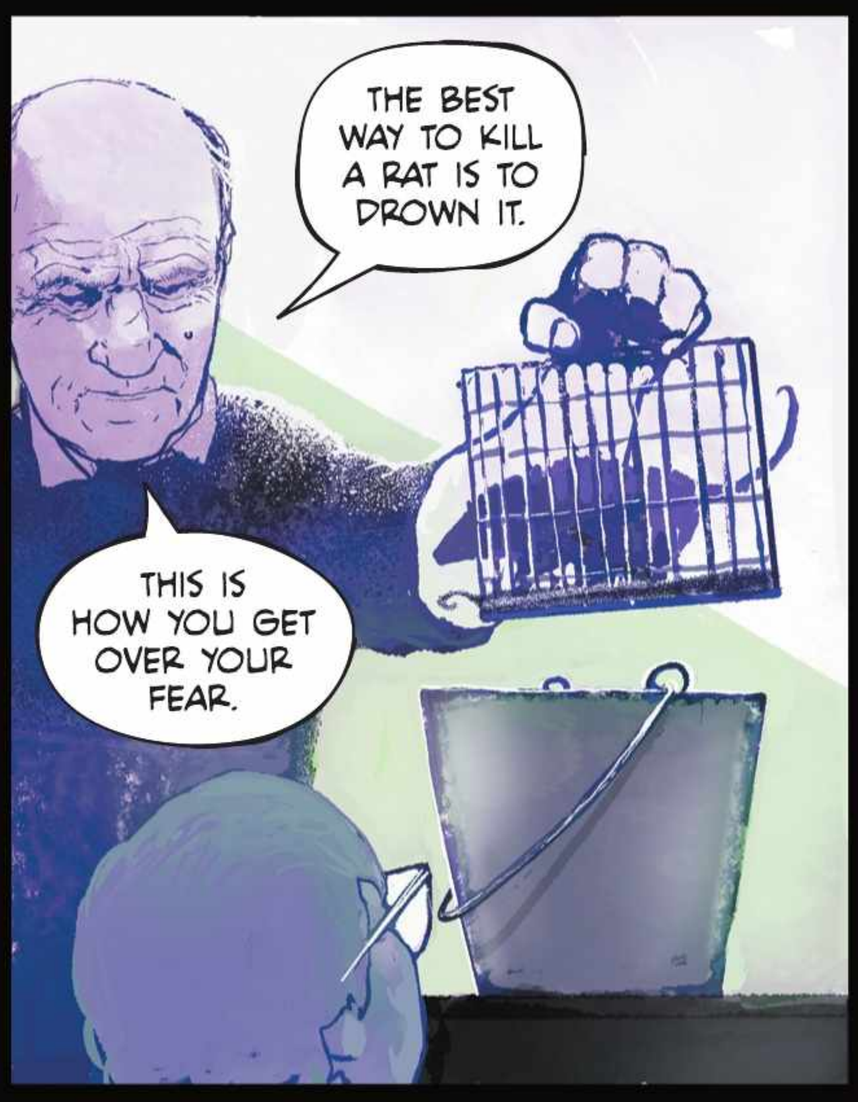
GO BACK TO SLEEP, CRYBABY!

RABIE
1.0 mL

YOU'LL RECEIVE FOUR DOSES OVER TWO WEEKS.

HOLD STILL.

EDWARD, COME HERE.


THE BEST WAY TO KILL A RAT IS TO DROWN IT.
THIS IS HOW YOU GET OVER YOUR FEAR.

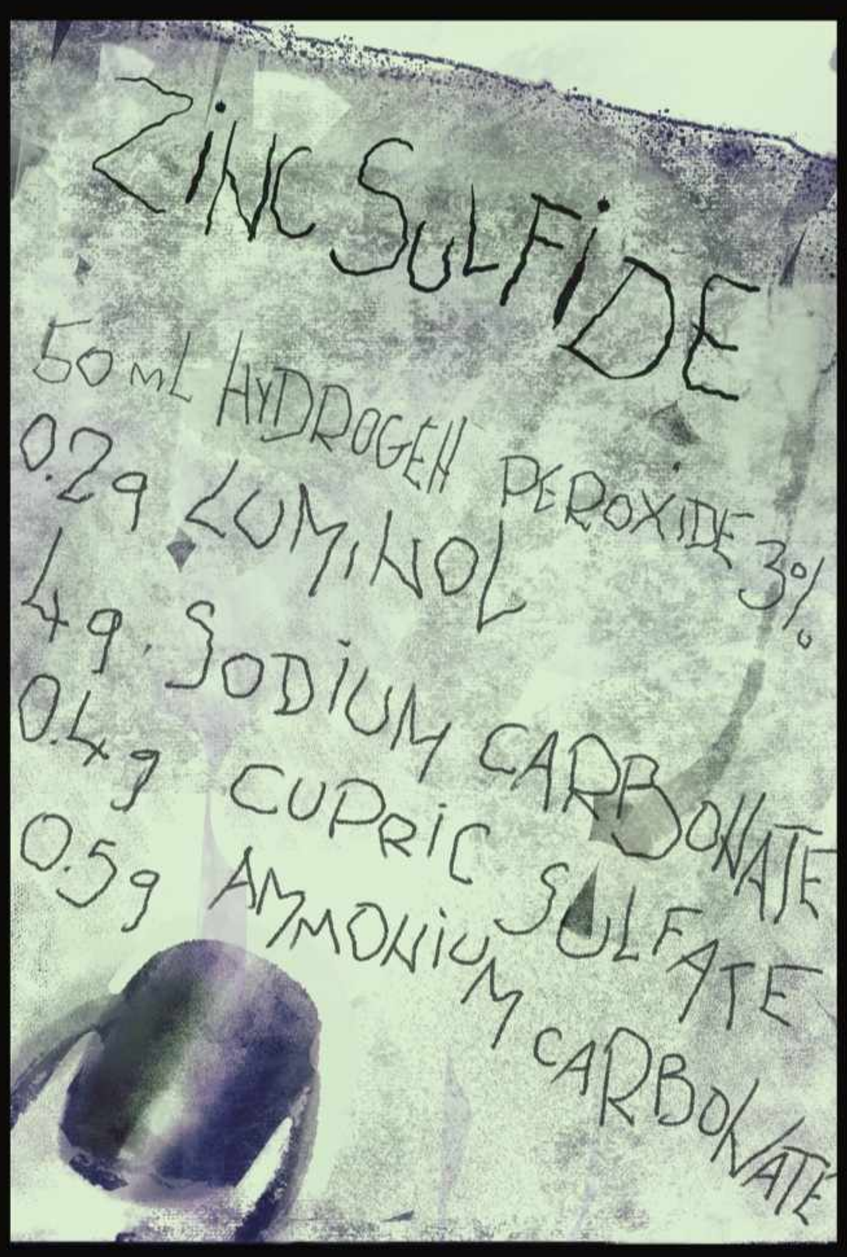
NOW OPEN IT.

SPLASH

THERE. NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF NOW.

DO NOT DENY THIS HEART OF MINE.

TRUCE TO HIS



AHHHHH! GET IT OFF!

AHHHHH!

AHHHHH!

SHHHH.
JUST BREATHE.

Riddle Me This

GAMES OF WIT

EDWARD, GO OUTSIDE AND PLAY WITH THE OTHERS.

LOOK AT IT. LOOKS LIKE A DINOSAUR.

WHAT THE HECK IS A TURTLE DOING IN GOTHAM?

I WONDER HOW STRONG ITS SHELL IS?

LET'S FIND OUT.

HEY, FOUR-EYES, COME THROW THIS ROCK AT THIS TURTLE. WE WANT TO SEE HOW STRONG ITS SHELL IS.

WHAT'S THE MATTER? STILL HAVEN'T LEARNED HOW TO SPEAK?

THROW!

THROW!

THROW!

THROW!

THROW!

THROW!

WHERE'D HE GO?

C'MON, EDWARD. STOP CRYING. THEY'LL HEAR YOU. THEY'LL HEAR YOU AND THEY'LL ***KNOW.***

SHHHH. THERE YOU GO.

RIDDLES, PUZZLES, AND BRAIN GAMES BEYOND

SHHHH.
JUST BREATHE.

PRAY PRAY FOR US. PRAY FOR US SINNERS. NOW AND IN THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH.

CHILDREN, STOP THAT AT ONCE!

WHAT THE FUCK DO YOU WANT, FREAK?

BOOOM

SSSSSSSSSSSSSSS

SHOW ME.

INGREDIENTS

AAAAAHHH!

WHOM

CHILDREN, LISTEN UP.

THE HEADMASTER HAS AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE.

CHILDREN, WE HAVE SOME EXCITING NEWS. MR. THOMAS WAYNE IS GOING TO COME FOR A VISIT NEXT MONTH. HE IS GOING TO MAKE A SPEECH, TO GOTHAM, FROM RIGHT HERE IN OUR VERY HOME.

HE'D LIKE THE CHOIR TO SING. THE REST OF YOU WILL BE IN THE FRONT ROW, AS MR. WAYNE HAS BIG NEWS TO SHARE WITH THE WORLD.

THANK YOU FOR COMING TODAY.

AND A SPECIAL THANK-YOU TO THE BOYS' CHOIR HERE AT THE GOTHAM ORPHANAGE. THAT WAS BEAUTIFUL, BOYS.

I BELIEVE IN GOTHAM. I BELIEVE IN ITS PROMISE. BUT TOO MANY HAVE BEEN LEFT BEHIND FOR TOO LONG, AND THAT'S WHY I'M HERE TODAY.

TO ANNOUNCE NOT ONLY MY CANDIDACY FOR MAYOR, BUT ALSO THE CREATION OF THE ***GOTHAM RENEWAL FUND.***

WIN OR LOSE, THE WAYNE FOUNDATION PLEDGES A ONE-BILLION-DOLLAR DONATION TO START A CHARITABLE ENDOWMENT FOR PUBLIC WORKS. I WANT TO BYPASS POLITICAL GRIDLOCK AND GET MONEY TO PEOPLE AND PROJECTS THAT NEED IT NOW, LIKE THESE CHILDREN BEHIND ME.

RENEWAL IS ABOUT GROWTH.

IT'S ABOUT PLANTING SEEDS AND RENEWING GOTHAM'S PROMISE.

FORM A LINE.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

THAT'S EDWARD. THE BOY WHO SINGS, BUT DOESN'T SPEAK.

TELL ME, EDWARD, WHAT'S SOMETHING THE RENEWAL FUND COULD DO FOR YOU?

IT'S OKAY, YOU CAN TELL ME.

UM. I...I WISH I COULD GO TO SCHOOL WITH OTHER KIDS LIKE ME.

KIDS WHO ARE DIFFERENT.

THAT'S A GOOD WISH, EDWARD. KIDS LIKE YOU HOW?

AND HOW ARE YOU DIFFERENT, EDWARD?

I'M GOOD AT MATH.

I THINK MATH HELPS US MAKES SENSE OF THE WORLD, DON'T YOU? MAYBE YOU'LL BECOME A DOCTOR, LIKE I DID. OR MAYBE YOU'LL COME WORK IN THE TECH DEPARTMENT AT WAYNE ENTERPRISES.

YES, SIR.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU LIKE, EDWARD?

RIDDLES.

RIDDLES! TELL ME, EDWARD, WHAT IS NEVER BEHIND YOU AND ALWAYS IN FRONT OF YOU?

THE FUTURE!

THAT'S RIGHT, EDWARD. BECAUSE REMEMBER, ***YOU MATTER.***

THOMAS WAYNE VISITS ORPHANAGE

THOMAS WAYNE for Mayor!

BRUCE WAYNE

WAYNE FAMILY

RENEWAL PROGRAM

APPLICATION

I WANT TO GO TO SPECIAL MATH AND SCIENCE SCHOOL SO I CAN WORK IN THE WAYNE TECH DEPARTMENT SOMEDAY

WHAT ARE YOU DOING UNDER THERE, FREAK?

NO!

OH SHIT, LOOK AT THIS! EDWARD'S JERKING OFF TO THOMAS WAYNE!

OR IS IT BRUCE?

GIVE IT BACK!

WHAT'S THIS? YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA GET OUT OF HERE?

PLEASE!

YOU THINK THEY'RE ACTUALLY GONNA HELP YOU?

PLEASE, I JUST--

APPLICATION

YOU THINK THEY WANT KIDS WHOSE PARENTS DIDN'T EVEN WANT THEM?

NO!

THOMAS WAYNE

You Matter

RENEWAL PROGRAM APPLICATION

I WANT

GOTHAM ORPHANAGE WAYNE FAMILY

YOU OKAY OUT HERE, KID?

HE'S OUT TONIGHT.

UM, I WANTED TO DELIVER THIS TO THOMAS WAYNE.

CAN YOU SEE THAT HE GETS THIS? IT'S IMPORTANT.

YOUR PARENTS KNOW WHERE YOU ARE, KID?

TO THOMAS WAYNE

THE RENEWAL PROJECT

FROM EDWARD

WAYNE

10:47 pm

GOTHAM ORPHANAGE WAYNE FAMILY

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT...

LIVE GOTHAM NEWS 1

...LAST NIGHT, AT 10:47 P.M., THOMAS AND MARTHA WAYNE WERE SHOT AND KILLED.

MURDERED

LIVE GOTHAM NEWS 1

LIVE GOTHAM NEWS 1

THEY WERE COMING OUT OF THE MONARCH THEATER WHEN THE COUPLE WAS ATTACKED. THOMAS AND MARTHA DIED ON SITE.

THEY ARE SURVIVED BY THEIR SON, BRUCE WAYNE, WHO WITNESSED THE TRAGEDY HIMSELF.

IN MEMORIAM

NASHTON?

THE RENEWAL PROJECT

RENEWAL PROGRAM APPLICATION

We regret to inform you that

REJECTED

NO!

NO!

HE PROMISED!

SOMEBODY HELP ME!

HE SAID HE WOULD HELP ME.

PEOPLE SAY ALL KINDS OF THINGS, EDWARD. ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY WANT TO BECOME THE MAYOR.

BUT HE PROMISED...

DON'T BE A CHILD, EDWARD. WELCOME TO THE REAL WORLD. IT'S TIME TO GROW UP.

THE RENEWAL PROJECT

Slowly I turned off the Lights.

One by one.

Room by room.

WELCOME

The Gotham Orphanage

Year by Year

foster home after foster home.

What happened in these homes...

I try to block it out.

But it lives in my body.

So my body

rejects itself.

Like I'm A cancer.

I snuff myself

out into black so the pain

doesn't eat me ALIVE.

No one helps me.

Somehow I stagger forward.

Why?

I don't know.

for what have I to LIVE for?

To: District attorney of Gotham County

Dear Sir,

I'm asking to be EMANCIPATED

Orphanage

Bad

WELCOME to your new home ♡

The Gotham Orphanage

I WATCH HIM DRIVE BY. DOES HE WAKE UP FEELING THIS WAY EVERY DAY?

I TRY TO KEEP MY FACE TOGETHER.

KEEP IT FROM FALLING APART.

FROM BREAKING INTO PIECES.

GOTHAM'S ORPHAN SON BRUCE WAYNE

ORPHAN

WAYNE

DOES *HE* HAVE SOMEONE HOLDING HIS FACE TOGETHER?

OR DOES HE LOVE HIS OWN FACE?

HE'S THE LUCKIEST BOY IN THE WORLD, AFTER ALL.

HE'S GOT IT ALL.

PRIVATE SCHOOL

HE IS LOVED.

THE HEIR OF GOTHAM

GOTHAM'S SON

GOTHAM'S OWN BRUCE WAYNE

BY EVERYONE.

BRUCE WAYNE.

WAYNE ENTERPRISES

THE ORPHAN.

GOOD LUCK OUT THERE, EDWARD.

WAYNE

ORPHANAGE

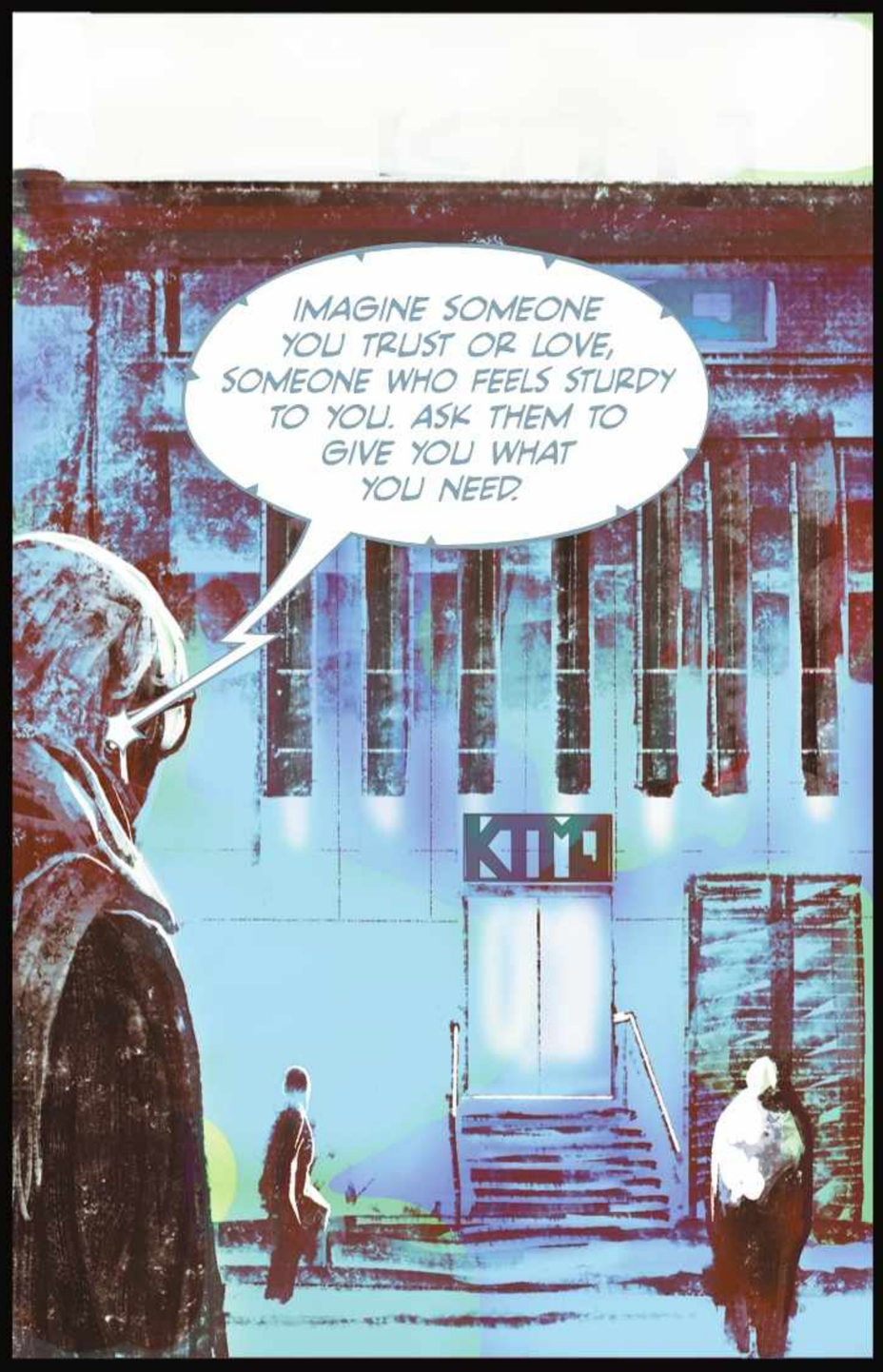
WAYNE FAMILY

Gotham Community College

JUST THE FIRST COUPLE OF PAGES, EDWARD.
I DID IT ALL.

YOU DID THE WHOLE SEMESTER'S BOOK IN THE FIRST WEEK?
THE FIRST NIGHT, ACTUALLY.

I WANT YOU TO GO HERE. APPLY FOR A JOB. I'LL TRY TO PUT IN A GOOD WORD.


IMAGINE SOMEONE YOU TRUST OR LOVE, SOMEONE WHO FEELS STURDY TO YOU. ASK THEM TO GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED.
KITO

KITO
Mr. Richard Stone
Division Director
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYONE.

RUN. RUN AS FAST AS YOU CAN. THEY'LL NEVER TAKE YOU. YOU *FREAK.*

I HAVE TO GO TO WORK NOW.

WAIT! DON'T LEAVE ME HERE! I'M SCARED OF THE DARK!

SHHHH.
JUST BREATHE.

if only I knew Then

what I know Now

To be continued...

DAWN OF DC

BATMAN #900

DARK KNIGHT vs. RED MASK!

THE CONCLUSION OF "THE BAT-MAN OF GOTHAM"
...AND THE UNBELIEVABLE START
OF WHAT'S NEXT!

WRITTEN BY
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AND MIKE HAWTHORNE

COVER BY
JORGE JIMENEZ

OVERSIZE
ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE

MAY

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PAUL DANO STEVAN SUBIC

THE RIDDLER

YEAR ONE

"COME ON, EDWARD. STOP CRYING. THEY'LL HEAR YOU. THEY'LL HEAR YOU AND THEY'LL KNOW."

As depicted in Matt Reeves's hit movie *The Batman*, the Riddler wasn't simply an amusing eccentric with an affinity for wordplay and baffling clues, but as terrifying a villain as any in the annals of the Dark Knight. Here you can see Edward Nashton evolve into the menace known as the Riddler. How did an unknown forensic accountant uncover the dark secrets of Gotham's underworld and come so close to bringing down the entire city? This six-issue miniseries is an immediate prequel to *The Batman*—the detailed, disturbing, and at times shocking story of a man with nothing to lose.

Award-winning actor **Paul Dano** expands upon the backstory of the character he played in the film. He is joined by acclaimed European artist **Stevan Subic**, making his American comics debut. Their collaboration delivers a shadowy and gritty portrait of a society's forgotten man—one who refuses to go unnoticed any longer.

DC BLACK LABEL

The Last Kryptonian-DCP